

ABSTRACT

A method and system for managing and deploying applications across a computer network by assigning and publishing applications to user and computer policy recipients. Assigned applications are automatically applied via a script to the policy recipients, thereby ensuring that the recipient has an administrator-specified workstation configuration. Assigned applications are advertised so as to appear available to the user, by adding an application shortcut to the start menu, and by populating the machine registry with appropriate application information. Other applications may be published to users, whereby those applications are optionally available for use by users. Published application information is maintained in a centralized store of information on the network. Assigned and published applications may be installed on demand, such as when the application is activated.